

Abstract of the Disclosure

A branch prediction method and system are provided that accurately predict a branch condition early in an instruction pipeline of a data processing system. By accurately predicting the branch condition, the correct target instruction can be fetched 5 early, thereby avoiding many of the inefficiencies associated with branch mispredictions.

To accurately predict if a branch condition is satisfied, one or more pre-calculated status bits are stored along with a digital value that is read by the conditional branch instruction to determine if the branch condition is satisfied. By including such a status bit, the condition of the conditional branch instruction may be immediately determined, without 10 waiting for the instruction to be processed by an arithmetic unit or the like in a subsequent pipeline stage.